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6 September 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Indochina Division

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THROUGH : Chief, North Vietnam Branch *NYC*

REFERENCE : CIA Report [REDACTED] 3 Sep 68, [REDACTED]

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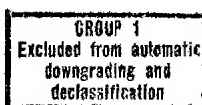
1. The referenced report states that North Vietnamese civil defense measures throughout the country have effectively minimized casualties resulting from US airstrikes, and that in the city of Haiphong the number of persons killed and wounded averaged only "0.3 persons per air attack." Investigation shows that the factor probably relates to casualties per attack sortie, a base which more closely coincides with other estimates of casualties in Haiphong.

2. The cumulative record of airstrikes within a ten-mile radius of Haiphong includes some 200 strikes comprising around 2,000 attack sorties against all types of targets. Application of the reported casualty factor would produce 60 or 600 total casualties. The larger figure compares favorably with the sum of an estimated 220 casualties based on photography to October 1967 and North Vietnamese claims of 300 casualties inflicted during the fourth quarter of 1967, when strikes in the Haiphong area were fairly intensive. A rate of 0.3 casualties per attack sortie, therefore, appears reasonable although its application probably should be limited to cities with defenses and population comparable to Haiphong's. Furthermore, to reflect the experience of two years of airstrikes, the time-frame should be confined to the year 1967 when 95 percent of the strikes against Haiphong took place.

25X1C 3. The general tenor of the report confirms previous impressions that casualties resulting from airstrikes in North Vietnam have been minimal. [REDACTED] reports that for the 17 million inhabitants of North Vietnam at the end of February 1968 there reportedly existed 34 million individual shelters, 15 million shelters for three to four

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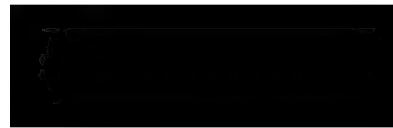
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persons, and 26,250 kilometers of connecting trenches. This shelter reputedly is so effective that 90 percent of the casualties to date occur outside of bunkers and shelters. In addition, analysis of US tactical flight procedure has permitted North Vietnam to anticipate the destination of attacking aircraft and escalation of the air war, enabling them to give timely warning of airstrikes and to evacuate large numbers of people from the cities.



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